

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for restoring a subscriber context in a ~~network element of a~~ mobile communication network which comprises at least a first and a second network element, the second network element storing a plurality of subscriber contexts related to the first network element, comprising the steps of:

storing restart information for the first network element at the second network element;

a) ~~transmitting a restart information~~ receiving a message at the second network element from the first to the second network element, the message including the restart information indicating whether the first network element has been restarted and whether a subscriber context has been updated in the first network element after the latest restart;

b) ~~continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart~~
creating a response to the message at the second network element, wherein the response includes restart information indicating whether the second network element has been restarted;

transmitting the response to the first network element from the second network element;

comparing the restart information of the message received in the receiving step with the stored restart information stored for the first network element at the second network element; and

e) ~~inactivating the plurality of all~~ subscriber contexts which are ~~related to~~ stored in the second network element for use of the first network element and have been updated before the latest restart of the first network element when the restart information of the message received in the receiving step differs from the restart information stored for the first network element.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein said restart information is comprises a restart counter value and is transmitted together with a context signaling message.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein said restart counter value is compared with a stored restart counter value so as to determine said subscriber context updated before the latest restart.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said stored restart counter value is updated on the basis of said transmitted restart counter value.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said restart

information is transmitted only one time after said latest restart.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein at least one of said network elements is comprises a GPRS support node, and wherein said restart information is transmitted together with a tunnel management signaling message.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said restart information is transmitted separately or in a separate message.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 24, wherein said restart information is comprises a restart counter value.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for restoring a subscriber context in a network element of a ~~mobile~~ communication network which comprises at least a first and a second network element, the second network element storing a plurality of subscriber contexts related to the first network element, comprising:

storing means for storing restart information for the first network element at the second network element;

a) ~~transmitting means for transmitting a restart information~~ first receiving means for receiving a message at the second network element from the first to the second network element, the message including restart information indicating whether the first network element has been restarted and whether a subscriber context has been updated in the first network element after the latest restart;

b) ~~wherein said second network element comprises receiving means for receiving said restart information, and control means for continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart and for inactivation of the plurality of subscriber contexts which are stored in the second network element related to the first network element and have been updated before said latest restart, in response to said restart information; and~~

transmitting means for transmitting a restart information from the second network element to the first network element, including a restart counter for counting a restart number and adding means for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message.

27. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 26, wherein said ~~transmitting means comprises a restart counter for counting a restart number, and an adding means for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message, and wherein said second network element comprises a comparing means for comparing said restart number received with a restart number stored in a storing means and for supplying the comparing result to said control means.~~

28. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 26, wherein said control means performs control so as to store a new subscriber context included in said subscriber context message and to delete an old subscriber context stored in said second network element.

29. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 26, wherein said transmitting means comprises a restart counter for counting a restart number, and switching means for switching said restart number to said transmitting means so as to be transmitted separately or in a separate message to said first ~~second~~ network element, and wherein said control means is arranged to delete or inactivate corresponding subscriber contexts received before the latest restart.

30. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 26, wherein at least one of said network elements is a GPRS support node and wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

31. (Currently Amended) A network element for a mobile communication network, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a restart information from the network element to another network element, the restart information indicating whether the network element has been restarted and whether a subscriber context has been updated in the

network element after the latest restart; and

receiving means for receiving restart information from the another network element, the restart information indicating whether the another network element has been restarted and whether a received subscriber context has been updated in the another network element after the latest restart.

32. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 31, further comprising a restart counter for counting a restart number, and adding means for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message.

33. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 31, further comprising a restart counter for counting a restart number, and switching means for switching said restart number to said transmitting means so as to be transmitted separately or in a separate message.

34. (Currently Amended) A network element according to claim 31, comprising:
a) ~~receiving means for receiving a restart information from another network element, the restart information indicating whether the another network element has been restarted and whether a subscriber context has been updated in the another network element after the latest restart, and~~

b) control means for continuing the use of a the received subscriber context

updated after said latest restart and for inactivating a plurality of subscriber contexts related to the another network element and having been updated before said latest restart in response to said restart information.

35. (Currently Amended) A network element according to claim 34, wherein said restart information is comprises a restart number and wherein said network element comprises comparing means for comparing said restart number with a restart number stored in a storing means and for supplying the comparing result to said control means.

36. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 31, wherein said network element is a GPRS support node and wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

Please add new claims 37, 38 and 39, as follows:

37. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the message received in the receiving step comprises a subscriber context create message.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising
creating, as the response to the message, a subscriber context at the second network element and

transmitting a subscriber context response to the first network element, wherein the subscriber context response includes the restart information indicating whether the second network element has been restarted.

39. (New) A method for restoring a subscriber context in a mobile communication network that includes at least a first network element and a second network element, the first network element storing a plurality of subscriber contexts for use of the second network element, and the second network element storing a plurality of subscriber contexts for use of the first network element, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, at the first network element, restart information for the second network element indicating whether the second network element has been restarted;

receiving a message from the second network element at the first network element, wherein the message includes restart information;

comparing, at the first network element, the restart information of the message with the restart information stored for the second network element; and

inactivating all subscriber contexts that are stored in the first network element for use of the second network element except those subscriber contexts for use of the second network element that have been updated after the latest restart of the second network element when the restart information of the message received in the receiving step differs from the restart information stored for the second network element.